

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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**Project Lead:** Hufnagle

**Field Office:** Sierra Front

**Lead Office:** Sierra Front

**Case File/Project Number:** NVN 0060169, NVN 032376, NVN 0047256/2800 & 2880

**Applicable Categorical Exclusion** (cite section): **516 DM 11.9 E. Realty** (12) Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.

**NEPA Number:** DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C020-0501-CX

**Project Name:** US Hwy 50 Utility Relocation ROWs

**Project Description:** Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is proposing to widen a portion of US Highway 50 between the communities of Mark Twain and Stagecoach in Lyon County. A portion of the road widening in section 24 of Township 17 N, Range 22 E crosses public land for approximately 5,000'. NDOT holds a BLM authorization that allows use of the entire Highway ROW for highway related construction purposes. The highway work is proposed to occur within the existing highway ROW, however, NDOT has advised certain utility companies that relocation of existing utility lines is required. As a result BLM has received 3 ROW amendment applications described as follows:

Sierra Pacific Power Company (NV Energy) – Amendment to ROW NVN 0047256

NV Energy proposes to relocate an existing 60 kV overhead line an average of 95 feet to the north. Proposed ROW amendment dimensions are 4146 feet by 40 feet. The new pole locations would be approximately 6 feet south of the northern NDOT Highway ROW boundary. All work would be entirely within the existing NDOT ROW. NV Energy proposes to remove ten 45-foot tall wood poles and install fourteen 60-foot tall poles. The taller poles would accommodate future lines in addition to the relocated line. NV Energy would use existing access roads and overland travel if existing roads are not adequate. No new roads or road improvement is proposed. Further construction, reclamation, maintenance and termination details including detailed alignment sheets are included in the Plan of Development submitted with the application for ROW amendment. Construction is anticipated to occur over a 30-day period beginning in April of 2011 (or upon BLM approval of the ROW amendment).

Paiute Pipeline Corp (Paiute) - Amendment to ROW NVN 0060169

Paiute proposes to replace an existing 10-inch gas pipeline with a 20-inch pipeline and relocate the 50' wide ROW to the northern portion of the NDOT Highway ROW. The 20-inch pipeline would be generally 25' south of the northern edge of the NDOT ROW and is more specifically shown on alignment sheets included in the Plan of Development submitted with the ROW amendment application. The alignment sheets show ROW overlap between this ROW and NVN 032376. The Plan of Development includes further details on construction, reclamation, maintenance and termination of the pipeline relocation project. The proposed ROW amendment

dimensions are approximately 5,000 feet x 50 feet. A single lane dirt road is proposed within the ROW area for maintenance purposes. Paiute has requested temporary use of the public lands lying north of the existing paved highway and south of the southern ROW amendment boundary during construction activities. Typical construction uses such as vehicle travel, equipment and material storage are proposed in this area of approximately 26 acres. Construction is proposed to begin no sooner than July 1, 2011 to be completed no later than December 1, 2011.

Paiute Pipeline Corp (Paiute) - Amendment to ROW NVN 032376

Paiute proposes to relocate an existing 12-inch gas pipeline to the northern portion of the NDOT Highway ROW. The 12-inch pipeline would be within a 30' wide ROW south of the northern edge of the NDOT ROW and more specifically shown on alignment sheets included in the Plan of Development submitted with the ROW amendment application. The Plan of Development includes further details on construction, reclamation, maintenance and termination of the pipeline relocation project and shows ROW overlap between this ROW and NVN 0060169. The proposed ROW amendment dimensions are approximately 5,000 feet x 30 feet. The single lane dirt road and temporary construction area described under Amendment to ROW NVN 0060169 would also be used for maintenance and construction associated with the 12-inch pipeline. Construction is proposed to begin no sooner than July 1, 2011 to be completed no later than December 1, 2011.

**Applicant Name:** Sierra Pacific Power Company (ROW NVN 0047256)  
Paiute Pipeline Corporation ROWs (NVN 0060169 & NVN 032376)

**Project Location:** T. 17 N., R 22 E., section 24, N½.

**BLM Acres for the Project Area:**

NV Energy NVN 0047256 4146' x 40' - 3.81 acres (relocation of ROW with no significant change in total ROW acreage)

Paiute NVN 0060169 50' x 5000' – 5.74 acres (relocation of ROW with no significant change in total ROW acreage)

Paiute NVN 032376 30' x 5000' – 3.44 acres (relocation of ROW with no significant change in total ROW acreage)

Paiute Temporary Work Area: 26.3 acres

**Land Use Plan Conformance** (cite reference/page number): LND-7, Administrative Actions #6, Exchanges and minor non-Bureau initiated realty proposals will be considered where the analysis indicates they are beneficial to the public.& ROW-4, Administrative Actions 3, ...applicants for right-of-way grants...are subject to standard approval procedures outlined in the right-of-way regulations (43 CFR 2800)...

**Name of Plan:** NV – Carson City RMP.

**Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances:** The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist  
review:  
initial in  
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety?		JAH
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		SC MC DT - BLM sensitive plant species ADC PZ - Mig. birds
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]?		JAH
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		JAH
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		JAH
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?		JAH
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office?		SC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		DT - Plants PZ - Animals
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		JAH
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)?		JAH
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)?		SC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)?		DT - Please attach stipulations for weed and rehab.


**SPECIALISTS' REVIEW:** During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists concurred with this CX:

Jo Ann Hufnagle, Lead Realty Specialist  
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Nicole Cutler, Hydrologist  
Steve Christy, Archaeologist  
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist  
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist  
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

**CONCLUSION:** Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

**DECISION:** It is my decision to implement the actions as described and approve amendments of the existing ROW grants. The amendments should include a stipulation that requires adherence to the approved Plan of Development for each project.

Approved by:

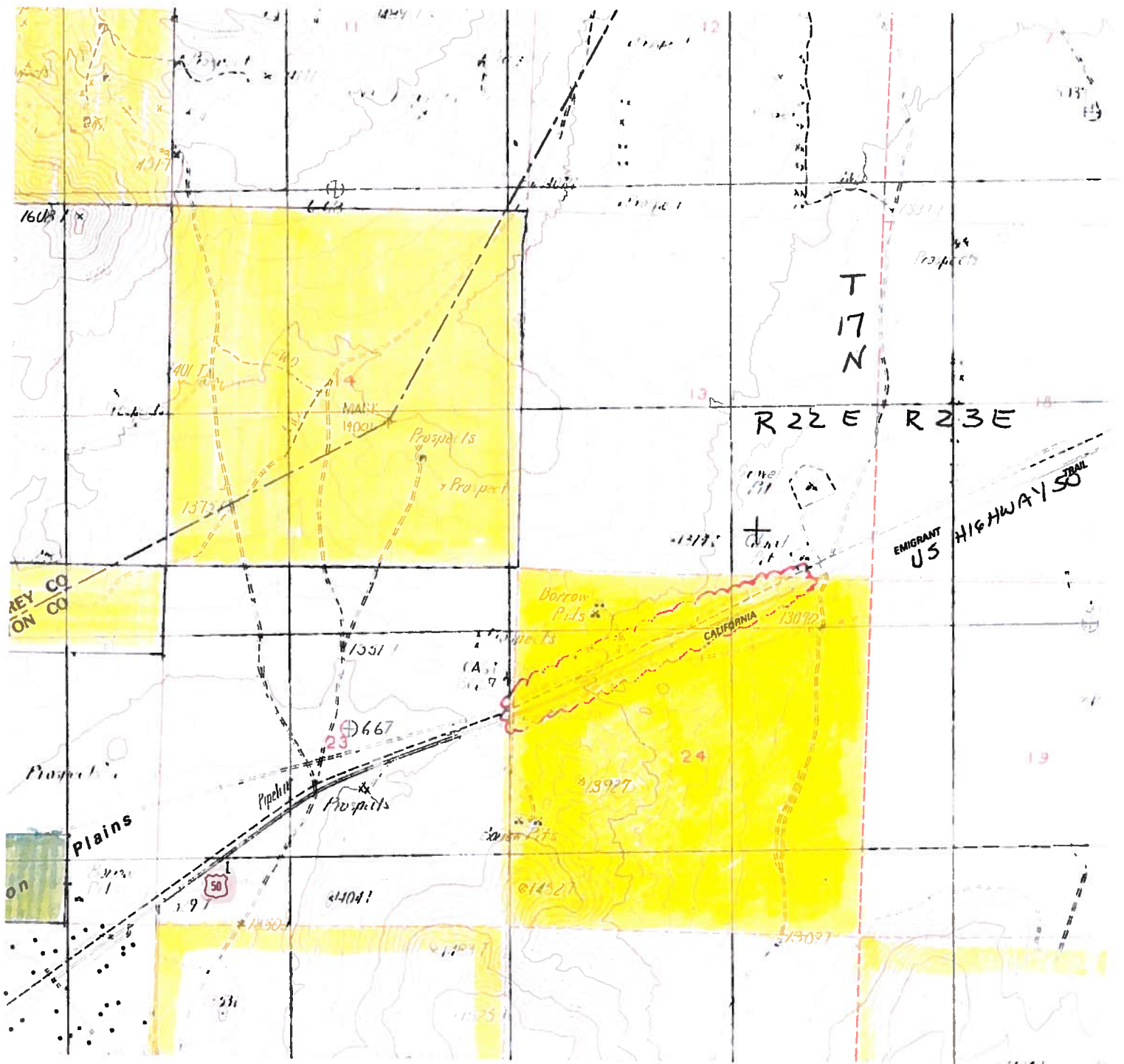
  
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Linda J. Kelly  
Field Manager  
Sierra Front Field Office

6/1/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

### **Special Stipulation**

The Holder shall construct, operate, and maintain the facilities, improvements, and structures within this right-of-way in strict conformity with the information contained in the Application to Amend that was approved and made part of the grant. Any relocation, additional construction, or use that is not in accord with the Application to Amend or the terms and conditions of the grant shall not be initiated without prior written approval of the Authorized Officer. A copy of the complete right-of-way grant, including all stipulations, attachments, and approved plans of development, shall be made available to the Authorized Officer on the right-of-way area during construction. Noncompliance with the above will be grounds for immediate temporary suspension of activities if it constitutes a threat to public health and safety of the environment.





# **US HWY 50 UTILITY RELOCATION PROJECTS**

Sierra Pacific Power Company ROW NVN 0047266 Amendment

Paiute Pipeline Corporation ROW NVN 0060169 & NVN 030522 ROW Amendments

Public Land 

ROW Projects area 



**MISFIT FLAT, NEVADA 7.5' QUADRANGLE (Portion - enlarged)**